

Civilian buyouts now authorized by DOD

Tech. Sgt. David Jablonski
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense now has permanent authority to offer civilian employees voluntary early retirements and buyouts (voluntary separation incentives) without having to get Office of Personnel Management approval each year.

The voluntary early retirement and voluntary separation incentive programs are similar to other programs the Air Force has used since 1993.

They allow the Air Force to offer employees up to \$25,000 to leave the Air Force, and/or take a voluntary early retirement.

By exercising these authorities, the Air Force will be able to take reductions in their civilian workforce while minimizing reductions in force, personnel officials said.

These permanent authorities came as part of the new National Security Personnel System.

“These programs may be used to reduce the number of personnel or to restructure the workforce to meet mission objectives,” said Sara Bonilla, chief of the Air Force NSPS project management office.

“Because the authority is now permanent, it allows managers greater flexibility in long-range planning,” Ms. Bonilla said. “In addition, NSPS included a limit on the total number of VSIPs that can be used in DOD and our allocation this year is 5,873. This does not imply we are downsizing 5,873 civilians or that we must use all of the VSIPs. It just means that, if needed, we could offer up to that number.”

There are no limits for using voluntary early retirements.

“Buyouts allow the Air Force to decrease (its) workforce without resorting to reductions in force, or reshape it without requiring the loss of positions,” Ms. Bonilla said.

“In addition to offering a separation incentive to employees eligible for early or optional retirement, it can be also be used for resignations,” she added.

Employees who accept a buyout, or an early retirement must leave government service in the same fiscal year.

Both the early retirement and buyout programs have other requirements.

See CIVILIANS, Page 2



1st Lt. Joseph Coslett
Col. Steve Schmidt, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, is congratulated by Russell Hendricks, T-1 crew chief, about Colonel Schmidt's new position. Colonel Schmidt will relinquish command in March.

Commander gets new assignment; new colonel to take over in March

1st Lt. Joseph Coslett
Public affairs

Air Education and Training Command recently announced that Col. Steve Schmidt, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, will relinquish command in March to Col. Stephen Wilson, 608th Air Operations Group commander at Barksdale AFB, La.

As 608th Air Operations Group commander, Colonel Wilson directs the daily operations of three squadrons and two detachments

charged with planning and executing air campaigns anywhere in the world.

“I’m looking forward to meeting Colonel Wilson and hearing his views and thoughts,” said the Honorable Jeffrey Rupp, Columbus mayor. “We’ll welcome him with that famous Columbus hospitality.”

Colonel Schmidt has served as the wing commander since August 2002.

During his tenure he has succeeded in achieving an “excellent” Operational Readiness Inspection rating and hosting the largest air show in Columbus AFB history.

He will report to Randolph AFB,

Texas, by March 31. Colonel Schmidt will replace Brig. Gen. David Stringer as director of logistics.

He will be responsible for the logistics functions of aircraft and weapons maintenance, supply, transportation and contracting at 13 bases. He will also be responsible for conducting operations at the headquarters logistics directorate.

“The colonel was a good friend to Columbus and Lowndes County,” Mayor Rupp said. “The base and community will miss his leadership.”

NEWS BRIEFS

Change of command

Lt. Col John Davidson is handing over command of the 41st Flying Training Squadron to Lt. Col. Jeffrey Kindley in a change-of-command ceremony at 2:41 p.m. today at Hangar 4. A reception will follow at the Columbus Club.

HAWC closure

The health and wellness center is closed from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. today for an official function. For more information, call Ext. 2477.

Parasail field

The field located behind the golf driving and skeet ranges is off limits to unauthorized personnel.

This field is the official location for parasail training only.

Ruts caused by prohibited vehicles after rainfall causes a delay in student pilot training and yield a high probability for student landing injury.

Individuals can be held accountable for damage to the field. For more information or concerns, call Master. Sgt. Curtis Chiles at Ext. 2783.

Playgroup

A mommy and baby playgroup is from 9 to 10 p.m. Wednesdays at the youth center.

This playgroup is for pre-walking babies. Babies observe, play and learn from one another. For more information, call 434-5210.

UCMJ FILES

The following is the staff judge advocate report for Oct. 1 to Dec. 31.

Administrative and disciplinary actions are published to educate people on the possible consequences of misconduct.

Articles 15

❑ A staff sergeant was reduced to senior airman and served 30 days in correctional custody for disobeying and disrespecting an NCO and making a false official statement.

❑ A staff sergeant was reduced to senior airman and given 20 days extra duty for dereliction of duty and making a false official statement.

❑ A staff sergeant was given a suspended reduction to senior airman with forfeiture of \$200 of pay for two months for disobeying a lawful command.

❑ A senior airman was given a suspended reduction to airman first class and served 30 days in correctional custody for dereliction of duty and

false or unauthorized use of identification.

❑ An airman first class was given a suspended reduction to airman and given 30 days extra duty for dereliction of duty.

❑ An airman first class was given a suspended reduction to airman and seven days extra duty for failure to go.

Articles 15 and involuntary discharges

❑ A senior airman was reduced to airman basic with forfeiture of \$100 of pay for two months for adultery and failure to obey lawful order. Due to a pattern of misconduct, and conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline, the airman received a general discharge.

❑ A senior airman was reduced to airman first class for reckless endangerment. Due to minor disciplinary infractions, the airman received a general discharge.

Courts-Martial

❑ A technical sergeant was reduced to senior airman and served 45 days in confinement for wrongful use of marijuana.



Kenn Brown

Tack on another

The 14th Flying Training Wing congratulates the February promotees. Pictured are (from left to right, front to back): to technical sergeant: Hallie Williams, 14th Communications Squadron; to senior airman: Marshal Nault, 14th FTW; to senior master sergeant: Marty Anderson, 14th Medical Group; to senior airman: John Verzal, 14th CS, James Mullins, 14 CS; to airman first class: Aaron Lorenz, 14th Operations Support Squadron, Jared Keith, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron; to senior airman: Michael Matteo, 14th CES; to airman, John Menendez, 14th FTW; to senior airman: Colt Roberts, 14th Comptroller Flight, Christopher Braddock, 14th OSS; to airman: Jean-Baptiste Museau; to airman first class: Manuel Avendano, 14th FTW, Elizabeth Terrazas, 14th Mission Support Squadron; to master sergeant: Hudson Varner, 14th OSS. Not pictured are:

To lieutenant colonel:

Mark Austin, 48th Flying Training Squadron

To major:

Kelly Holbert, 37th FTS; William Lee, 50th FTS; Edward Watson, 48th FTS

To first lieutenant:

Noel Torres, 14th CPTF

To staff sergeant:

Roxanne Phillips, 14th FTW

To senior airman:

Luke Mostoller, 14th CPTF

To airman:

Nathan Barr, 14th CES; Angela Caufield, 14th OSS; Brian Ford, 14th CES; Andre Heags, 14th OSS; Kyle McHale, 14th CES; Richard Ward, 14 CES

CIVILIANS (Continued from Page 1)

For early retirement, the employee:

❑ Must have at least 20 years of federal service and be at least 50 years old. Younger employees may be eligible if they have 25 years of federal service.

❑ Must have worked for DOD continuously for at least one year.

For buyouts, the employee:

❑ Can receive a maximum of \$25,000 before taxes and deductions.

❑ Must be a U.S. citizen.

❑ Must be serving under an appointment without time limitation.

❑ Must have been employed by DOD for a continuous period of at least 12 months.

Employees who accept buyouts may not take another position with the federal government, directly or via contract, for at least five years or they will be required to repay the buyout. Additionally, employees may not return to work for the DOD for at least one year unless they receive a waiver from the secretary of defense.

The cost of the buyout is funded by the organization offering it.

Camera phones pose risk to security

Master Sgt. Darrell Lewis
Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center public affairs

TINKER AFB, Okla. — Carrying the latest “have-to-have” electronic gadget may mean big trouble for the person who brings it into unauthorized locations. Officials from the National Security Agency said in an advisory that new cellular phones with integral digital cameras pose an unacceptable security risk to homeland security.

This type of phone is not authorized for use or possession within any Air Force facility processing classified information without written authorization from the designated approval authority.

Communications are getting faster and easier,” said Jane Guidicini, Air Force Communications Agency certified emission security technical authority. “While that does help speed communications, it can also unfortunately allow classified information to get out of a classified area inadvertently or otherwise.

“We realize occasionally the restrictions might seem overly strict when the new

technologies come out, but it’s better to be overly cautious than to have an incident,” Ms. Guidicini said.

“It takes just a little common sense to realize that if you have a cell phone with a camera, you should leave it home if you work in a classified area,” said Tech. Sgt. Shon Kloepping, 72nd Security Forces Squadron noncommissioned officer in charge of physical security.

If someone in a restricted area has one of the phones with a camera capability and a security forces troop discovers it, he or she would be forced to confiscate the camera for review of unlawful images, Sergeant Kloepping said.

Additionally, civilian employees could face federal charges and military members could face federal charges and Uniform Code of Military Justice actions, he said.

But it is not just a good idea to limit their use in “secure rooms” where classified information is being processed, said Peter Bryant, Air Force Materiel Command security forces directorate information security chief.

“You should watch how you use and carry those anywhere you’re dealing with



Airman Cecilia Rodriguez

Camera phones are not authorized within any Air Force facility processing classified information without written authorization from the designated approval authority.

sensitive or proprietary information,” he said.

If people see someone using any unauthorized camera without coordinating with base agencies, contact the base security

forces squadron, Mr. Bryant said.

“It all comes down to being aware,” Sergeant Kloepping said.

For more information, call Ext. 7128. *(Courtesy of AFMC News Service)*

New Defense Travel System arrives at Columbus AFB

Columbus AFB will soon join other bases in using the new Defense Travel System.

The benefits of DTS include: Fast, electronic reimbursement of travel expenses; approvals and certifications tied directly to mission; a significant reduction in time spent administering travel; reduced paperwork; and the automated payment of government charge cards.

First envisioned in the mid-1990s, DTS fielding began in 2001 at 27 pilot sites and at 232 other sites across the Department of Defense, and is already supporting thousands of military and civilian personnel.

The new program was approved as the DOD’s official TDY travel system and approved fielding of the system to the entire Defense Department was approved Oct. 20, 2003.

“Within the next two years we will deploy DTS to the most high-volume travel sites within DOD,” Colonel Brandy Johnson, DTS program director. “It will take time to deploy DTS to all of the DOD, but the process is well underway.”

Col. Alan Tomson, the DTS executive director for transformation, describes DTS as “a state-of-the-art, 21st century e-commerce system.”

He explained that DTS will mean online TDY travel for virtually every person in the DOD, both civilian and military.

Fast, electronic reimbursement of travel expenses. This is a priority item. As Colonel Tomson put it, “Why should our travelers be financing our operations? That’s what happens, in effect, if we don’t reimburse them promptly. Thanks to DTS, DOD will now be able to reimburse its business travelers quickly and electronically.”

❑ Worksite approvals and certifications. DTS places approval of travel arrangements and certification of travel vouchers at the traveler’s worksite instead of at a servicing finance location. This places the authority to make travel decisions with the leaders and managers responsible for completing the mission.

❑ Significant reduction in the time spent administering travel. Reports to Congress based on field-testing of DTS indicate that on average the time spent administering travel is cut to one-third of what it had been before DTS, and saving time also means saving money.

❑ Reduced paperwork. As DOD’s single end-to-end electronic solution for Defense business travel, DTS is, in fact, online travel. DTS provides electronic connectivity between the traveler, the authorizing official, the service/agency accounting and disbursing systems, the local comptroller’s budget, the commercial travel service provider, the commer-

cial bank card service and the electronic archive of travel-related documents. This electronic connectivity and archival process eliminates the reams of paperwork required previously for business travel.

❑ Automated payment of government charge cards. This attribute makes DTS “a knight in shining armor” for many travelers and for military services and defense agencies. It takes much of the after-the-fact bill paying responsibility away from the traveler, and will work to reduce those delinquencies that are caused by having the extra delay in the payment/repayment chain. Once a voucher is approved for payment, reimbursement for expenses charged to the traveler’s government charge card is electronically made directly to the traveler’s government charge card account.

Current plans call for DTS to be deployed to more than 100 locations across the Department of Defense by the end of Fiscal Year 2004. DTS will be deployed to more than 11,000 DOD locations by the middle of the decade, at which point it will support 90 percent of all DOD business travel.

To learn more about the capabilities and functionalities of DTS, visit the Defense Travel System website at www.defensetravel.osd.mil. For more information, call Ext. 2695. *(Courtesy of the DTS management office)*

Air Force core values endure winds of change

Chief Master Sgt. Randy Auld
14th FTW command chief



As I awoke this morning, I reflected on all the changes we are making in the Air Force as a whole.

Key initiatives such as “Transformation” and “Force Development” are examples of ideas that demand a new way of thinking to get our jobs done faster, cheaper and more efficiently, while creating a new vision for developing our most valuable resource — our people — for success in the future.

The changes aren’t just limited to how we develop our people, or the thought process for performing our jobs.

We are also evaluating our utility uniform requirements and are currently conducting a wear test of the proposed replacement.

Then I thought about the numerous changes for the 14th Flying Training Wing that are coming between now and the summer season. Changes of command

abound, starting with the 41st Flying Training Squadron, security forces and mission support squadrons and the wing itself before the end of March.

Naturally, when you consider upcoming changes, it certainly causes one to look at the effects of the past.

Over the past 26 years, I have had the opportunity to “transform” from the typewriter to computer automation with the Z100 computer, through a whole host of software innovations.

Uniforms have changed as well, moving from blue stripes on cotton fatigues to subdued stripes on permanent press fatigues.

The new service dress was a controversial change, replacing the older “Combo 1” style adopted from the Army days.

Let’s not forget about name tags, from the sewn on version in blue and white to subdued, then to the aircrew style name tags and back again to subdued.

Technology and uniforms aren’t the only changes the Air Force has made over the years.

The Berlin Wall is down and the Cold War is over. We have moved from a predominantly home-based force posture, both stateside and overseas, to a more

dynamic, quick reaction force designed to deploy on a moment’s notice anytime, anywhere.

Our smaller, focused Aerospace Expeditionary Forces remain challenged, as they never have been before.

Winds of change, or is it? When looking back ... and then forward, you quickly realize changes are only skin deep.

Let me explain. Although we operate with different weapons systems, procedures and dress differently, our core foundation has not changed.

Even before our Air Force formally established its core values — Integrity first, Service before self and Excellence in all we do — we strived to instill those values in our people.

If you have doubts, ask a World War II veteran, or those who sacrificed so much during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Desert Shield and Desert Storm demanded no less. Today, the Global War on Terrorism again proves our sincere commitment to the core values.

See **CHANGE**, Page 5

STRAIGHT TALK LINE

The Straight Talk Line is your direct line to the commander for comments and suggestions on how to make Columbus AFB better. Although the Straight Talk Line is always available, the best way to resolve problems is through the chain of command.

The Straight Talk Line phone number is 434-7058. Callers should leave their full name and phone number to receive an answer. All names are kept confi-

dential. Messages are answered in the Silver Wings without names.

Written questions may also be brought to the public affairs office in the wing headquarters building, Bldg. 724.

People can also access the Straight Talk program through the Blazeweb at <https://columbusweb> and the main website at www.columbus.af.mil.

Questions and answers will be edited for brevity.

Visitor center construction site update

Question: I would like to know what the hold-up is for completing the construction around the visitor center? It has been over three weeks and I have not seen any work going on. Is this another time the contractor has ran out of money and stopped work? What was the initial completion date?

Answer: I am as sorry to see the delay in finishing the visitor center parking lot as anyone. Unfortunately, soil

conditions at the site ... much like we’ve also seen with Simler Boulevard ... required additional excavation, which had to be approved by the command. Three weeks later, we had the funding so the contractor went back to work, only to be delayed by wet weather.

Everything is back in full swing with an expected completion date of March 2004. So pray for sunshine and pave on.

Col. Steve Schmidt
14th Flying Training Wing commander

SILVER WINGS

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434-7069, or e-mailed to silverwings@columbus.af.mil by 2 p.m. Friday. The Silver Wings staff reserves the right to edit or rewrite all copy submitted when necessary.

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Base Exchange	434-6013
Chaplain	434-2500
Civil Engineer Service Desk	434-2856
Civilian Personnel	434-2635
Clinic:	
Family Practice	434-2172
Appointment Desk	434-2273
After Hours Care	434-2273
Columbus Club	434-2489
Commissary	434-7106
Finance	434-2706
Housing Maintenance	434-7370
Inspector General	434-2927
Legal Office	434-7030
Military Equal Opportunity	434-2546
Security Forces	434-7129
Shoppette	434-6026

Visit www.columbus.af.mil to learn about Columbus AFB agencies and other important information.

Our club needs support to stay alive

Lt. Col. David Eastman
14th Operations Support Squadron



Is our club dying? I’d have to say yes to that question. Despite the best efforts of a great services division team, our club is still not able to support its operating costs. Even though they’ve been able to drastically reduce the loss in the last six months, the club loses money every month. Since its only source of financial support is non-appropriated funds, the doors can only stay open with our support.

Our Air Force is very different from what it was 20 years ago when I was commissioned as a second lieutenant. The operations tempo was slower, and most people had more time with family during the week, so it wasn’t a big deal to go to the club on Fridays.

Twenty years ago, the club was pretty much where you went two or three Friday nights a month and it was fun. Being a member had its privileges as well — free food, occasional free drinks, membership nights, big parties, camaraderie — and we can have that again if we can boost our membership. I’ve been told that for

every \$16 you spend at the club, they keep about \$1, so you can see they’d have to sell a lot of “Happy Burgers” for the club to have money to provide its members with the privileges I knew as a young officer.

How about the money you pay for dues, where does it go? As it turns out, all of it goes to the club so they can provide more for the members. Lt. Col. Dan Clark, 50th Flying Training Squadron commander, and I were discussing this issue, and he reminded me that throughout our careers, we’ve both seen great and poor clubs. The one common denominator was the membership. He also pointed out that the price of your membership is a very small percentage of the cost of living increase each of us just received.

About now you’re saying to yourself, “If the club provided better service, better food, better price, better whatever, I’d join.” But if you think about it, how can the club make it better without the capital to do so? When was the last time you dropped a suggestion in the suggestion box, volunteered to join the “committee for a better club” or regularly participated in the many club activities? Our club management team is trying their best to make a place we’ll use, but they can’t do it without our feedback and patronage.

I know our club is struggling. We can blame

management, operations tempo, poor service, poor food or many other factors. The bottom line is — it won’t be around much longer, and they can’t make it better unless we boost our membership.

Why should you become a member? Here are five reasons why you should join your club:

❑ Try it for a year and see if an increase in membership will make it better.

❑ All the events we hold at the club now — promotion ceremonies, graduation banquets, retirements — will have to be held at alternate locations.

❑ You can take advantage of membership privileges — free or discounted food, discounted services and prizes.

❑ Your commander won’t bug you every few months about club membership.

❑ The No. 1 reason we should join the club is to support our leaders and their goals.

We don’t have to agree with everything our leaders ask us to do, but they still deserve our support. From the chief of staff on down, our leadership would like to save our clubs, and they’re counting on all of us to get behind them. It’s part of being a team.

CHANGE (Continued from Page 4)

Yes, the way we look and act on the outside may have changed, but not our internal drive and dedication — Duty, Honor and Country — three precepts sustaining our devotion to our core values. Those values we so dearly

cherish with all our hearts, serving this great nation proudly, from the sands of Afghanistan and Iraq, to the shores of Japan, Hawaii and Iceland, and numerous other locations around the world.

Yes, “Winds of Change” are here. However, as history documents, the United States of America, and its men and women in uniform will continue supporting freedom. So when you think about all the

changes coming down the road, just remember — Duty, Honor and Country. Press on with pride knowing that integrity, service before self, and excellence is what we do. No one in the world does it better.

Chief of Staff Sight Picture Shaping the force for a better future

Gen. John Jumper
Air Force Chief of Staff



Over the last decade, we’ve seen a dramatic change in our security environment. We have reduced our active-duty force by nearly 40 percent, from 608,000 to 375,000, while remaining engaged around the world at levels higher than at any time during the Cold War. To accommodate the changing world, we have completely transformed our Air Force, from one that dealt with the Soviet and North Korean threats into an agile Aerospace Expeditionary Force, capable of rapidly responding anywhere, with tailored forces ready to deal with any contingency. Our transformation has yielded outstanding results. But for the past two years, we have exceeded our mandated active-duty end strength of 359,000. Under the president’s declaration of a national emergency, our excess numbers are appropriate. While this is a temporary situation fueled by the Global War on Terrorism, we now need a plan to return to the authorized levels. By the end of 2005, we should reduce the size of our active force by 16,000 people, and we must reshape the force to correct existing skill imbalances and account for a new range of missions in the GWOT.

I know it may not be clear why our active-duty end strength needs to decrease while we are still heavily engaged around the world. Let me explain how we got to this point and what we are doing to fix it.

As a result of several years of high operations tempo, we were given some latitude on how quickly we came down to the legal end strength limit of 359,000. We also suffered an unprecedented recruiting problem during the 1990s. Recruiting has traditionally not been a problem for the Air Force, but a robust economy late in the 1990s had us falling short of recruiting goals for the first time since 1979. As a result, we took in thousands of people using skill mix assumptions that are no longer applicable to the demands of the GWOT. We now have several career fields over manned, while suffering shortages in others. Our task now is to reduce the force while also fixing this skill mix imbalance.

One area that has affected our end strength is Stop

Loss — a program we used in 2002 and 2003 to stop people from separating. When Stop Loss was lifted, many of those airmen who intended to separate elected to stay. Other policies associated with the GWOT also influenced our end strength. We swelled the force by implementing programs that brought prior-service members and air Reserve component volunteers on active duty to fill known critical skill shortages. Perhaps the most significant factor affecting our strength was, and still is, retention. Our goal for first-term enlisted retention is 55 percent, but at the end of FY03, it was 61 percent. Across the board, our retention is up, and for a good reason.

In addition to an increased sense of patriotism, the tax and pay changes — some implemented for GWOT — really work. Imminent danger pay, hardship duty pay, combat zone tax exclusion, family separation allowance and a host of others, plus bonuses we pay to ensure we can retain critical skills, all add up to a very attractive compensation package that turned the tide toward staying in uniform.

We are proud of our retention rates and that our people are electing to continue to serve. To start our reshaping effort, we have set new targets for recruiting, from 37,000 this year to 35,600 in FY05 and 34,500 in FY06. We are also working on fixing our stressed career fields. Where we are short of people for the rotational requirement, we’ve taken action to direct more of our recruits into the stressed career fields.

However, we know we can’t replace five- and seven-levels with people right out of technical school. Part of our force shaping will have to be done by retraining and shifting experienced people from over-staffed career fields.

Many of our airmen are willing to make the shift, and we will encourage retesting and support for waivers to qualify for retraining into critical skills. But in some career fields, our ability to absorb more people is often limited by training facilities and capacity. We will work to unclog any training backlogs. I am dedicated to reducing our stressed career fields and putting in place the right incentives to retain the people we task the most.

In addition to looking at retention, recruiting and retraining, we are also looking at where our people are — we have airmen serving in jobs outside the Air Force who don’t deploy as part of our AEF. Some of these, such as joint positions and some defense agency

positions, require uniformed people, and we benefit by having an airman’s perspective in those jobs. Others, however, may not require a uniformed person, or a military person at all. These are positions that we are working to legitimately reclaim into our ranks.

Until very recently, we had not made all the manpower cuts we agreed to during the 1990s. We’ve now made the adjustments in our books — over 13,000 positions eliminated — but we still need to move some of the people. That means we have airmen with advanced training and professional skills filling positions that no longer exist. It’s hard for me to argue to the Congress that we don’t have enough people when we should be using some of our airmen in other required positions.

All of these efforts will be combined with several additional force shaping tools to get to our authorized manpower levels and to get the right skills in the right places. We will include initiatives such as restricting reenlistment in overage career fields, voluntary transfers to the ARC, shortening service commitments, limiting officer continuation for those deferred for promotion, commissioning ROTC cadets direct to the ARC, limiting reclassification of those eliminated from technical school, rolling back separation dates, and officer and enlisted retraining.

We are out of balance for the contingency world in which we live. I recently returned from an area of responsibility where I met people who had been deployed for more than 200 days. They take great pride in the job they are doing, but we are being unfair to them and their families. If at all possible, our goal is to give every qualified airman who wants to stay in the Air Force the opportunity to do so. In addition, we will use every tool available to shape the and avoid the extreme measures that were used in the early 1990s.

Saddam Hussein buried his airplanes in the sand rather than face your Air Force. That’s respect, and you continue to earn it every day.

Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche and I are proud of you, and are honored to serve with you. We will continue to remain closely engaged on these issues to ensure that we reshape the force into one that is suited for the 21st century while sustaining the standards of excellence and morale that are emblematic of the world’s greatest Air Force.

(Editor’s note: This article is the latest Air Force Chief of Staff Sight Picture and may be accessed from the Air Force issues Web page at www.issues.af.mil.)

Speakers are needed for the Columbus AFB Speaker’s Bureau. Anyone interested in speaking about the Air Force or their career field at civic clubs, career fairs, science fairs, elementary schools or high schools in the Golden Triangle area can come to the public affairs office and fill out an application. Call Ext. 7068.

Storytelling: A Noble tradition

Airman 1st Class Boto Best
Public affairs

In Africa, storytelling is a tradition and a favorite pastime. After a hard day's work on the farms and after dinner, elders and children sit around the fire to tell stories. Some are fables with fictional characters, but others are true stories of great warriors from long ago.

When Africans were captured and brought to America as slaves, they lost everything, or so it seemed. Speaking their native languages was forbidden, and so was learning to read and write. The only way they could pass on traditions and history was verbally, through storytelling.

African-Americans have since learned to read and write, but the tradition of storytelling continues — perhaps because a story comes to life when told with the conviction of one who has actually lived it.

The African-American story is also one of perseverance and triumph in adversity - so much so that it is not just a tradition, but a legacy, the passing on of an invisible torch.

One African-American master sergeant was given this torch by her mother and passed it on to not only to her two young sons, but her entire family as well.

Master Sgt. Tonya Noble had just arrived at Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, Ala. in September 1995 with her two sons, D'Mario, 5, and Derrick, 3, when her local church announced that there would be a reenactment of the 1956 bus boycott.

The event, which had been scheduled for 2 p.m. on a weekday, had been delayed. But she found out that a famous African-American would be signing books at a local bookstore called Roots and Wings. So she got the



Courtesy photo

Rosa Parks sitting on a bus in Montgomery, Ala., in 1956.

boys out of school to attend the book signing.

That famous African-American turned out to be Rosa Parks, the seamstress whose refusal to give up her seat to a white man on a bus led to a court ruling that segregation on transportation was unconstitutional.

The line was long, but Sergeant Noble and the boys waited.

"This is a historic moment for us," she told them. "You hear all about these African-American heroes, but you never get to meet them."

Finally, their turn came.

They had previously been to Birmingham, Ala., to see the replica of Rosa Parks on the bus, and the boys recognized her instantly.

"Look, mal!" one of the boys exclaimed. "That's the woman who was on the bus!"

Ms. Parks noticed and called to them.

"I've been here all day, and your kids are the only ones I've seen," she said.

She was also curious as to why their mother had taken them out of school to attend the event.

"It's not every day you get to meet a

living legend," Sergeant Noble answered. "I wanted to give them the opportunity."

Ms. Parks asked the boys about themselves, signed their book and took a photo with them. The book Ms. Parks was signing was called "Letters to Ms. Parks," a compilation of letters that children had written to her.

Two months later, the photo arrived in the mail with a note from Ms. Parks, stating how much she had appreciated their coming to the event.

Sergeant Noble took her sons to see the reenactment of the bus boycott every year until they left Alabama. In 2002, she also took a

visiting aunt to see the historical sites in Montgomery.

Her aunt enjoyed it so much that in 2002, the family had its reunion in Montgomery. The family visited the sites and even traced the historic 50-mile march from Selma to Montgomery.

"It's sad when you live in the headquarters of the civil rights movement, an area compact with so much history, and yet become immune to it," she said. "Living in Montgomery became an experience not just for me, but for my entire family."

Sergeant Noble said her mother gave her this piece of advice: "The only real legacy you can give your children is roots and wings. You can keep your family grounded by telling them where they come from. Then when they grow up, you can give them wings and let them soar. With a proper foundation, a child might stray, but he'll always come back to his roots."

(Editor's note: This article is part one of a series in honor of African-American History Month.)

African-American History Month Spotlight



Master Sgt. Lyle Vines
14th Flying Training Wing

Hometown: Philadelphia, Pa.

What does African-American History Month mean to you?: African-American History Month means more to me than just a month dedicated to the history of black Americans. It means celebrating my ancestors' accomplishments and more importantly, not forgetting their struggles. At times, we all forget about the past and get caught up in today's fast-paced life complaining about all of the minor heartaches that come our way. How quickly we forget about those that came before us and their struggles to just be treated equal. Our generation is more concerned about what we don't have instead of being thankful for everything God has given us.

It is also a time for all Americans to pause and reflect on the history of great men and women such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Benjamin Banneker, Booker T. Washington, Bessie Coleman, Benjamin Davis, W.E.B. DuBois, Rosa Parks, Frederick Douglas and Thurgood Marshall. It is important for kids to know that African-Americans have contributed to the building of America and has fought in every major U.S. war, while still fighting for integration and equality. Next month, we will be celebrating the legacy of the Mississippi Tuskegee Airmen here at Columbus. These great men became a great cornerstone in America's history despite the prejudice, bigotry, hatred and injustice they faced each and every day. The Tuskegee Airmen proved that given the opportunity, dreams can become reality and no one can stop you from reaching them.

AT THE CHAPEL

Catholic

Sunday activities:

9:15 a.m. — Mass

10:30 a.m. — CCD

5 p.m. — Confessions

5:30 p.m. — SUPT Mass

Wednesday

11:30 a.m. — Mass

Protestant

Sunday activities:

9 a.m. — Sunday school

10:45 a.m. — Traditional worship

1 p.m. — Contemporary worship

Tuesday

Noon — Lunch and Bible study

Wednesday

5:30 p.m. — Dinner and Bible study

7 p.m. — Choir rehearsal

For Islamic, Jewish, Orthodox or other services, call the chapel at Ext. 2500.

AT THE MOVIES

All movies are shown at 7 p.m., unless otherwise noted, at the theater.

Today

"*Cheaper By the Dozen*" (PG-13, strong language and some thematic elements, 99 min.)

Starring: Steve Martin and Bonnie Hunt.

Saturday

"*Peter Pan*" (PG, adventure action sequences and peril, 113 min.)

Starring: Jason Isaacs and Jeremy Sumpter.

Feb.13

"*Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*" (PG-13, intense epic battle sequences and frightening images, 200 min.)

Starring: Elijah Wood and Ian McKellen.

For more information about movies, visit www.cafbgrapevine.com.

CHANNEL 64

BLAZE 64 offers announcements for people living in base housing or the dormitories.

Call public affairs for more information at Ext. 7068.

Weekdays

9 a.m., noon and 2 p.m.

Air Force Television News

Monday through Feb. 13

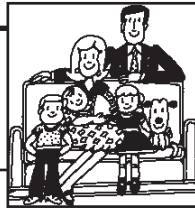
9:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

College Level Examination

Program Tapes:

Mathematics

FAMILY SUPPORT



(Editor's note: *All activities are offered at the family support center unless otherwise specified. For more information, call Ext. 2790.*)

Money and marriage: A workshop on money and marriage is from 4 to 5 p.m. Tuesday. The seminar goes over check-book maintenance, budgeting, financial goals, credit buying and other things for people about to get married, newlyweds and any others who wish to attend.

Bundles of Joy: The Bundles of Joy program is from 2 to 4 p.m. Thursday. The event is for active-duty Air Force spouses who are pregnant or who have a child less than 6 months old. Speakers will brief on finances, labor and delivery, and infant care. An Air Force Aid Society program provides a gift package to those who attend.

Single parents: A social for single parents begins at 5:30 p.m. Thursday. The event is a Valentine's Day social with crafts, games and refreshments.

Coping: A seminar on how to cope with difficult people is from 1 to 3 p.m. Feb. 18. The event will focus on how to communicate effectively on the job by learning new skills and identifying with difficult people.

Scholarship: The General Henry Arnold Education Grant Program's deadline for its scholarship is March 12. The scholarship is for family of Air Force active duty, retired and reservists on extended duty. Up to \$1,500 are awarded in grants. Applications are available at the family support center. For more information, call Ext. 2855 or Ext. 2790.

BASE NOTES



Scout trip: Troop 52 will work on their tree merit badge Saturday at Camp Henry Pratt. For more information or to join the Boy Scouts, call Wayne Boswel at Ext. 2611 or Greg Johnson at Ext. 7871.



Airman 1st Class Boto Best

All that jazz

Jamie Clay, dance instructor, teaches a jazz class at the youth center. Beginners' and advanced classes are offered in ballet, tap dance, preparatory dance and creative movement. For more information, call the youth center at Ext. 2504.

Pancake breakfast: Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 04-05 spouses have a pancake breakfast from 7 to 9:30 a.m. Sunday at Applebees. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 8 and under. Tickets may be purchased at the door. All proceeds go to the spouses' graduation fund for Class 04-05. For more information, call 434-5313.

Bible study: A midweek Bible study is from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays in the chapel annex.

The focus of the study is the video series "The Measure of Spiritual Maturity," and dinner is provided.

A Bible study is held at noon Tuesdays in the chapel annex. The focus of the study is the Fruit of the Spirit Bible series: Building Healthy Relationships.

A teen Bible study is held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays in the chapel annex for ages 12 to 19. "Crossroads" is the focus of the study, and dinner is provided. For more information, call Ext. 2500.

OSC scholarships: The Columbus Officers' Spouses' Club offers scholarships to graduating high school seniors and continuing education students.

Each applicant must be a dependent of either an active duty, retired, missing-in-action, active-duty reservist or deceased military member associated with Columbus AFB. Applications are available at the education center, family sup-

port center or high school guidance offices. Deadline to enter is today. For more information, call 240-1519.

Lunch and learn: The health and wellness center has a brown bag lunch and learn seminar on healthy heart matters from noon to 1 p.m. Feb. 13 in the HAWC's classroom. Cookbooks are distributed to attendees on a first come, first served basis. For more information, call Ext. 2477.

Spouse award: The nominations for the 2004 Joan Orr Air Force Spouse of the Year award are due for the 14th Flying Training Wing by Feb. 16. The award period is Jan. 1, 2003, to Dec. 31, 2003. The award recognizes the significant contributions made by spouses of Air Force military members. The nominee's husband or wife must be serving in the Air Force, including reserve components. Active duty or reservists are not eligible for the award. For more information and regulations, see Air Force Instruction 36-2805, Special Trophies and Awards.

Commissary scholarship: A \$1,500 academic scholarship is offered to children of active-duty, retired, guard and reserve military members. The deadline to submit an application is Feb. 18.

The goal is to award at least one scholarship at every commissary location, depending on the number of qualified applicants and funding. For more information, call Ext. 7106.

African-American History Month Quiz

1. This person started a school in Alabama where black children could learn skills such as shoemaking and farming.
2. This person visited President Abraham Lincoln in the White House in 1864.

Parachute shop helps keep team BLAZE afloat



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Jim Moser

Melodie Wells, DynCorp fabric worker, sews senior master sergeant stripes on a desert camouflage uniform for a Columbus AFB person who is deploying to southwest Asia.



Bill Plunk, DynCorp senior parachute rigger, repacks a parachute at the survival equipment shop after inspecting it to ensure safety and operability of the chute.

Fine thread keeps CAFB clothed, alive

1st Lt. Joseph Coslett

Public affairs

Flight suit, desert, woodland and parachute cloth fill the room put together by a fine thread keeping BLAZE team members clothed and alive.

The Columbus AFB Survival Equipment Shop takes care of the base's fabric needs.

"We do everything from life preservers to T-38 wing covers," said Roger Wade, survival equipment shop leadman.

The fabric shop sews on rank, badges and does any alterations required on desert battle dress uniforms for people who are being deployed.

"Sewing on all the items saves a good bit of money because it is at no cost to the troops," Mr. Wade said.

The survival shop affects the Columbus AFB mission in multiple ways here at this home station.

The fabric shop sections repair and alter G-suits and flight suits.

"Pilots break 'em and we patch 'em back up," said Melodie Wells, fabric worker.

The shop serves an average of 450 customers per month, dealing with desert BDUs, flight suit patches and alterations, and rank on the woodland BDUs.

The shop sews everything on in accordance with Air Force regulations, Mr. Wade said.

If a pilot ejects, all of the emergency equipment needs to work with split second accuracy. The survival shop conducts a complete 180-day inspection and repack on 655 personnel parachutes and an annual inspection on 135 T-38 drogue chutes, a small parachute on the aircraft seat headrest.

"We inspect the chutes to ensure they are safe and will work, and replace time change items such as the harness and canopy," Mr. Wade said. "All inspection information is kept on the Air Force Form 391, Parachute Log."

The shop's skills were challenged when a T-38 recently crashed in Sheppard AFB, Texas.

"We had to inspect every parachute on the base to ensure they were safe and would not present a risk," Mr. Wade said. "We went to 12-hour shifts and got enough chutes out the first day that the wing never had to stop flying."

They also inspect under arm and one-size-fits-all life preservers for operability annually. The preservers are inflated and checked to see if they reach the right pressure. Following that, the inspectors ensure they remain inflated for hours, so if a pilot uses it, the preserver will work when needed the most.

They also fabricate intake and T-38 wing covers for maintenance to prevent foreign

object and environmental damage.

"We make things from the tiniest fuel card pouch to T-38 wing covers," Mr. Wade said.

The survival team members have more than 20 years experience and Bill Plunk, senior parachute rigger, has almost 40 years that allowed him to improve the T-38 wing cover fasteners.

"Bill is a McGuyver always trying new things to make things better and easier," Mr. Wade said.

The old fasteners consisted of bungee cords and hooks, were more expensive, and presented a safety hazard. Mr. Plunk designed new covers that have fabric fasteners and cloth straps to make them sturdier, easier to handle and less expensive.

In addition, their experience also allowed them to repair the runway crash net, saving \$10,000.

Whether it's making intake covers or seat cushions to pilot checklist holders they take pride in everything they do and put the customer first, Mr. Wade said.

The survival shop continues to sew badges and more importantly check parachutes in accordance with the Riggers Creed.

"I will keep constantly in mind that until men grow wings, their parachutes must be dependable," Mr. Wade said.



Brenda Houser, DynCorp fabric worker, repairs a zipper on a G-suit.



The survival equipment shop repairs a G-suit.



Jeff Cline, DynCorp parachute rigger, secures a parachute inside a pack. The parachute shop inspects and repacks 655 personal parachutes every six months.

Services provides base with variety of entertainment

Disc Jockey Maze: The enlisted lounge features the music of Disc Jockey Maze today from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Call Ext. 2490.

Club card drawings: The Landing Lounge and enlisted lounge offer a club card drawing for cash every Friday night between 4:30 and 6 p.m. The cash prize starts at \$50 and is increased by \$25 each week until the prize is won. The person must be present to win. Call Ext. 2490.

Catfish buffet: The Columbus Club offers an all-you-can-eat catfish buffet from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fridays. Cost is \$5.95 for members and \$7.95 for nonmembers. Customers may still order off the a la carte menu. Call Ext. 2490.

New library hours: The library is now open Saturdays. Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday through Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. Call Ext. 2934.

Midday bingo: The Columbus Club now offers bingo at noon Monday. Two \$25 games and one \$50 progressive game are played. Cards are \$1 each for the two \$25 games and \$1.50 for the \$50 jackpot game. Call Ext. 2490.

Mexican lunch buffet: The Columbus Club offers this buffet from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday. Cost is \$5.95 for members and \$7.95 for nonmembers. Call Ext. 2490.

Black History art contest: The deadline for entries for this contest is Monday. The youth center will announce the winners at 4 p.m. Thursday. Drawings must pertain to black history. Submit entries with name, phone number and title of drawing. Awards given in three categories, ages 6 to 8, 9 to 11 and 12 to 15. Call Ext. 2504.

Give parents a break: The child development center and youth center offer this program from 5 to 11 p.m. Feb. 14. Parents must register by Wednesday. For reservations, call the child development center at Ext. 2486 and the youth center at Ext. 2504.

Valentine's Day dance: The youth center offers a dance from 7 to 10 p.m. Feb. 14. Cost is \$1 for members and \$2 for nonmembers. Members who bring a guest will be admitted for half price. Children under 13 years of age must depart at 9 p.m. Call Ext. 2504.

Spend the day with your sweetheart: The Columbus Club and Whispering Pines Golf Course offer a package deal for Valentine's Day, Feb. 14. Make reservations for the couples 9-hole scramble and the Sweetheart Dinner at the club, and receive a \$10 discount on each program or \$50 per couple for the package deal. Regular price is \$40 for the dinner and \$30 for the golf scramble. The golf scramble begins at noon and seating times for dinner are 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Call Ext. 2490 or Ext. 7932 for more information.



Pam Wickham

Bucking bronco

Master Sgt. Kevin Hawks, 14th Security Forces Squadron, rides the mechanical bull at the Columbus Club's membership night Jan. 30. The club offers a sweetheart dinner Feb. 14. To make reservations, call Ext. 2490.

Mardi Gras trip: The information, ticket and travel office offers a trip to New Orleans Feb. 14 to Feb. 16. Cost is \$165 per person and includes transportation and two nights lodging at the Holiday Inn. A deposit of \$50 is required when registering. Call Ext. 7861.

Comedy night: The Columbus Club and enlisted lounge offer a comedy night Feb. 21. The Columbus Club offers a steak dinner for all ranks. The comedy show starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$17.50 at the door. Tickets for the show only are \$7.50 in advance or \$12 at the door. The enlisted lounge offers the show at 9 p.m. for \$7.50 in advance or \$12 at the door. Nonmembers pay \$2 more. The opening act is Amura of UPN's The Parkers. The headliner is Kier, who uses his music to impersonate personalities such as Sting, Elton John, Bruce Springsteen, Billy Joel and Bob Dylan. Call Ext. 2490.

2004 teen aviation camp: The youth center is accepting applications until March 1 for the teen aviation camp from June 5 to June 11 at the Air Force Academy in Colorado. The program is open to high school sophomore and juniors who would like to explore the Academy as a

possible college choice. Applicants will participate in a wide variety of outdoor and classroom activities in the camp including piloting an aircraft, swimming and horse-back riding. Applications are available at the youth center. Final selections will be announced by April 9. For more information, call Ext. 2504.

2004 chess tournament: The 2004 chess tournament for active-duty personnel is March 13 to March 14 at Maxwell AFB, Ala. Transportation will be provided to and from Maxwell AFB for participants. Participants must be a member of the U. S. Chess Federation to compete in this rated tournament. To register, call Ext. 7450.

Birthday Parties: The Strike Zone Lanes offers three different birthday party packages ranging in price from \$3.50 to \$4.75 per person. Stop by to pick up a brochure on what is offered with each package. Call Ext. 2426.

Youth instructional classes: The youth center offers the following instructional classes: karate, voice lessons, tumbling tots, guitar lessons, tennis lessons, dance and sign language. Call Ext. 2504.

Rodeo: An intercollegiate rodeo, the Block and Bridle Bulldog Stampede, is today and Saturday at the Mississippi Horse Park in Starkville, Miss. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$6 for children and free for children 6 and under. For more information, call (662) 325-9350.

Historic tour: Historic African-American guided tour around Columbus is at 9 and 11 a.m. Saturday. The tours are sponsored by the Columbus Historic Foundation. For ticket information or reservations, call (800) 920-3533 or 329-3533.

BSA events: The Black Student Alliance at Mississippi State University has many events scheduled in honor of African-American History Month. A Bring a Kid Day is at 2 p.m. Sunday at the women's basketball game at the Humphrey Coliseum. Children get in free. An Ebony Fashion Show is at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the Union Ballroom. Admission is \$3 per person. Martin Luther King III will speak and answer ques-

tions at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Union Ballroom. Admission is free. A formal dance is at 8 p.m. Thursday at the Hunter Henry Center. The Mahogany Ball: Unified Expressions of Love is \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. For more information on any of these events, call 325-3917.

Improv and Sketch Comedy: The Second City National Touring Company offers a comedy show Thursday at the Princess Theatre. The theater is in downtown Columbus. on 5th Street South. Tickets are \$15 per person. For ticket information, call (662) 328-2787.

Baptist Memorial volunteers: Baptist Memorial Hospice begins a new series of volunteer training sessions at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 21 on the third floor solarium of Baptist Golden Triangle's Willowbrook building. The remaining two sessions are at 3 p.m. Feb. 26 and March 4. For more information, call Hospice at 243-1173.

Science fair: Heritage Academy hosts a science fair March 2 and is looking for volunteer judges. Volunteer forms are available at the public affairs office. People are needed to sign up by Feb. 13. The judges are needed from 9:30 a.m. to noon. For more information, call Ext. 7068.

Weekly events: Every night is military identification card night with a 10-percent discount at the Princess Theatre and the Stage Door Coffee House. Tuesdays are Ladies' Nights with specials all night at the Stage Door Coffee House. Thursdays are Open Mic Nights at the coffee house at 9 p.m. For more information, call 327-6789.

Overseas returnees: A local Columbus eating establishment, Fleet's Eats, offers a free lunch to the sponsor and family when a military member returns from overseas. The restaurant is open for lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and is located at 576 West Lowndes Drive. For more information, call 328-5747.

BARGAIN LINE

Bargain Line advertisement

The Bargain Line is free for all military members (including guard and reserve members), DOD civilians, military retirees, family members and contract employees. Bargain Line advertisements must be turned in to the Silver Wings office in the 14th Flying Training Wing headquarters building by noon Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Late ads will be held over for the next issue. Reruns must be phoned in to the Silver Wings office, 434-7068, by noon Monday for inclusion in the next week's issue. Please do not re-submit ads for rerun on this form. Advertisements should contain a home phone number, home address or both. Duty phone numbers will not appear in the ads. Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income, such as baby-sitting or rental property, may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through the Silver Wings publisher, 328-2424. Please fill out this form completely. The Silver Wings staff reserves the right to edit ads as necessary.

Type of advertisement (circle one):	Home	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Yard sales	Pets
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Print advertisement: _____

Name: _____

Home Telephone #: _____ Duty Telephone #: _____
(in case we need more information)

Please let us know what you think of the Silver Wings:
Are you happy with the Silver Wings? Yes ☐ No ☐
What would you like to see more of in the newspaper? News ☐ Sports ☐ Photos ☐
If you would like to give any other suggestions, please e-mail us at silverwings@columbus.af.mil.

Be aware on nature trails, Perimeter Road

Tech Sgt. Jim Moser
Public affairs

Hunting still continues on Columbus AFB with small game such as squirrel and rabbit and turkey season beginning soon although deer season is over.

Hunting is allowed in the commercial forest area located near SAC Lake and the nature trails.

While hunters and nature enthusiasts sharing the same areas can prove to be a volatile mix, both groups can take steps to limit safety risks.

“People should wear bright colors when biking, running or walking along Perimeter Road or through the nature trails, as these areas border the designated hunting areas,” said Sarah Fafinski, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron natural resource manager. “If you take your dog out to any of these areas, be sure to keep it on a leash.”

A map of where individuals are hunting on specific days can be found at 14th Security Forces Squadron. People who are concerned about where hunting occurs can check this map before going out to these areas.

Hunters can also minimize hazards by following simple safety steps like:

- ☐ Always wear orange
- ☐ Shoot in safe directions
- ☐ Keep firearms on safe
- ☐ Use caution when hunting around the perimeter fence and nature trails

According to Kyle Van Why, wildlife biologist, hunting has a positive effect on the base.

“Hunting plays an important role in natural resource protection,” he said. “First, hunting and deer removal, besides reducing the risk of deer strikes and helping the base mission, help keep the deer population in check and healthy. If the population gets too high, then the deer will destroy their habitat by over grazing it. Secondly hunting limits disease problems.”



Tech. Sgt. Jim Moser

Tech. Sgt. Thomas Nunn, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron, adjusts a sign warning joggers and pedestrians to stay on the main Perimeter Road and nature trails. It is dangerous for people to go outside these areas due to hunting.

Disease is a natural population control for herd animals. Although disease occurs in well-managed deer herds, it is more prevalent and dangerous in overpopulated herds.

Mr. Van Why also pointed out that the same philoso-

phy applies to rabbits, turkeys and some other small game animals.

Hunting season ends May 1 with the conclusion of Turkey season.

For more information on hunting call Ext. 7942.

SHORTS

Caledonia sports

Youth baseball and fast-pitch softball registration for Caledonia Sports Association begins Saturday. Registration is held every Saturday through Feb. 28 at the Caledonia Community Center from 8 a.m. to noon.

Fee is \$40, and a copy of a birth certificate is required.

Ages for registration are 4 to 6 for T-ball, 7 to 8 for coach pitch, 9 to 12 for baseball, and 10 and under and 11 to 12 for fast-pitch softball. For more information, call (662) 386-0336.

Skeet range

The skeeting and trap range has open shooting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

The range is located next to the golf driving range toward the SAC Alert Facility.

For more information, call outdoor recreation at Ext. 2507.

Spin class

Spin classes are at 11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the fitness and sports center. The class is a one-hour self-paced training session of sprinting, resistance climbing and jogging all on a stationary bike. For more information, call Ext. 2772.

Nine-pin no-tap

A nine-pin no-tap tournament is scheduled every Friday except when cosmic no-tap is happening. It starts at 7 p.m. at the bowling center.

Sign up by 6:30 p.m. The center will pay for one place for every four entries and there will be a men’s and women’s division. Entry

is \$10 per person. For more information, call Jennie Hodges at 434-6723.

Kindergym childcare

Kindergym is offered from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at the fitness and sports center.

This program is for people with friends who can take turns watching each other’s children while working out. This is an opportunity for mutual motivation and free childcare. For more information, call Ext. 2772.

Personal trainers

Personal trainers are available at the fitness and sports center to spice up a workout routine or help a person get more out of their workout. For more information, call Ext. 2773.

Fitness 101

People who want to get in shape but aren’t sure how to use all the fitness and sports center’s machines can schedule a Fitness 101 class.

The center shows people how to find their target heart rate and to use all of the equipment.

Classes are by appointment only. For more information, call Ext. 2772.

Aerobics classes

Aerobics classes ranging from beginning step, kickboxing, spinning and yoga are offered every week at the fitness and sports center.

There are 15 different classes every week. For information on class times, call Ext. 2772 or stop by the center for a schedule.